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## 1861 December 23 - Higley Annual Report, Surveyor General's Report to Governor of California (no statistical tables)

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF**  
**THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL**  
**FOR**  
**THE YEAR 1861.**

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# ANNUAL REPORT.

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STATE LAND OFFICE,  
Sacramento, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1861.

To His Excellency,  
JOHN G. DOWNEY,  
Governor of California:

SIR: - In accordance with the requirements of the Act concerning the office of the Surveyor-General, I have the honor to submit the following annual report of the office for the past year.

Respectfully,

H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General, and Register of State Land Office.

## SEGREGATION AND RECLAMATION OF SWAMP LANDS

The Legislature of last winter passed an Act [providing for the segregation and reclamation of the swamp lands-the segregation returns to be returned to this office, the reclamation being under the sole control of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners.

It was made the duty of the Surveyor-General to compile from the returns of the County Surveyors a general map, showing the swamp lands, etc., a list of these lands which, together with the affidavits, he was to transmit to the Governor. I have received returns from the following counties: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sutter, Placer, Colusa, Yolo, Monterey, Humboldt, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Lake, and Alameda. The County Surveyor of Santa Clara informs me that he will make his returns in a few days. These are all the counties where we are likely to conflict with the United States surveys, except Contra Costa. No returns have been sent from that county, from the fact that they have no County Surveyor.

Had the Surveyors been more prompt, my portion of the work would have been completed some time ago; as it is, I will transmit to you full returns by the first of January, in the form already submitted to you and approval.

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## SWAMP AND OVERFLOWED LANDS

Surveys returned to the Surveyor-General's Office and approved during the year ending December fifteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one.

Counties.	Acres.
Alameda.....	1,983.43
Del Norte.....	645.49
Colusa.....	2,400.00
Contra Costa.....	918.23
Fresno.....	23,459.16
Humboldt.....	1,658.44
Los Angeles.....	3.31
Marin.....	473.00
Mendocino.....	4,161.16
Merced.....	4,853.28
Monterey.....	482.96
Napa.....	5,055.91
Placer.....	7,550.56
Sacramento.....	42,722.52
San Joaquin.....	57,542.38
San Mateo.....	10,087.89
Santa Clara.....	3,605.72
Solano.....	21,175.37
Sutter.....	579.30
Shasta.....	13,499.80
Stanislaus.....	524.31
Tulare.....	16,427.66
Yolo.....	<u>16,886.85</u>
Total.....	236,696.73

Of the above amount, thirty-three thousand and thirty four and seven one-hundredths acres are resurveys of forfeited lands.

Total amount of Swamp and Overflowed Lands surveyed and approved in the Surveyor-General's office since the passage of the first Swamp Land Act in 1885 (acres).....	974,150
Deduct resurveys in 1859, 1860, and 1861 (acres).....	79,981
	894,169

Total amount of Tide Lands surveyed and approved in Surveyor-General's office since the passage of the Act providing for their sale, in eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, two thousand five hundred and fourteen and eighty-seven one hundredths acres.

### TIDE LANDS

Surveys returned to the Surveyor-General's office, and approved, during the year ending December fifteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one :

Counties.	Acres.
Santa Barbara.....	480.00
Total.....	480.00

### SWAMP LANDS—(Frontage)

I would suggest but one change in the swamp land use, and that is in regard to frontage. I copy from my report of last year:

“The restriction to a frontage of one-half mile on bays and navigable streams, has caused much complaint among applicants for purchase of swamp lands. I now recommend what I had the honor to submit in my report of last year, which is as follows : ‘The Swamp Land Act, passed April twenty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty- eight, authorized the purchase of three hundred and twenty acres of land by one person, but restricted the purchaser to a frontage of one half mile, by legal subdivision, on any bay, lake, or navigable stream.

The Act of eighteen hundred and fifty-nine authorizes the sale of six hundred and forty acres to one individual, but makes no provisions for a greater frontage. The object of the restriction was to prevent the monopoly of the narrow strip of land along the margin of water courses, which is generally higher and more valuable than that back of it, and probably also to prevent the settler on the margin of the water courses from

shutting out those purchasing in the rear from communication with the water. The law, so far as it applies to such cases, should not, in my opinion be changed. In many of the tracts of swamp land, especially those near the junction of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, there are innumerable sloughs, many of which are navigable. In consequence of their sinuosity, it often occurs that when a person desires to purchase six hundred and forty acres, in the locality in which he wishes to select the same, it is impossible for him to get one hundred and sixty acres, even without having a greater frontage than is allowed by law. There are often islands formed by navigable sloughs, containing, perhaps, not more than three hundred and twenty acres, and yet having a frontage of two miles. The cost per acre of reclaiming swamp lands, by levees or ditches, depends upon the amount reclaimed. It is very evident that, the smaller the tract, the greater will be the cost of reclamation per acre; consequently the purchaser who is compelled to take up his three hundred and twenty, or six hundred and forty acres, in separate tracts, labors under a greater disadvantage. To avoid this difficulty, I would suggest that the law be so amended as to allow the purchaser, in such cases, to take six hundred and forty acres, with the additional frontage requisite to secure that amount; *provided*, that the Surveyor-General is satisfied that the interests of the State do not suffer thereby, and that the rights of individuals are not interfered with.

It will be seen, by reference to the report of Mr. Beaumont, Surveyor of San Joaquin County, for last year, the importance of having the law amended so as to do away with this difficulty."

#### SCHOOL LANDS—FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND ACRE GRANT

No additional sales of these lands have been made since the date of my report of eighteen hundred and sixty. I repeat from it the disposition that has been made of this grant.

Description.	Acres.
Sold under School Land Warrants issued prior to the passage of the Act of April 23, 1858.....	237,760.00
Sold for cash since the passage of the Act of April 23, 1858.....	261,197.83
Total disposed of.....	498,957.83

Leaving a balance of one thousand and forty-two and seventeen one-hundredths acres, which is reserved as a margin to correct in the final adjustments of the grant.

We have received payments, however, upon three thousand one hundred and seventy acres, which remained unpaid for on the hands of the State, and which have been relocated during the past year. There are still between six thousand and seven thousand acres of these forfeited lands; they can be speedily disposed of.

The payments of interest have, in general, been made regularly, and in some instances the principal has been paid and patents issued.

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SCHOOL LAND WARRANTS,

*Located under Act of April 23, 1858.*

Description.	Acres.
In the Marysville District three locations have been made, two of which have been approved for.....	640
In San Francisco District two have been made and one approved, for.....	320
Amount heretofore located and embraced in Report of 1860.....	15,200
Total.....	16,160

Patents have been issued for many of these Warrant locations. In the list of Warrants located, published in my Report of eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, Nos. 270 and 275, for three hundred and twenty acres each, were not mentioned. They were located by Archibald C. Godwin, on the Geysers in Sonoma County, on the twenty-first of April, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and a copy of the certificate of location has been filed in this office.

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STATE SCHOOL LAND WARRANTS,

*Located upon Unsurveyed Lands under the Act of April 18, 1859.*

There have been returned to this office during the past years, twenty-nine surveys, as follows.

Description.		Acres.
Alameda.....	4 surveys approved.....	1,280
Contra Costa.....	2 surveys approved.....	640
Humboldt.....	1 survey approved.....	320
Los Angeles.....	3 surveys approved.....	960
San Mateo .....	1 survey withdrawn.....	320
Santa Clara.....	2 surveys approved.....	800
Santa Cruz.....	1 survey approved.....	480
Sonoma.....	2 surveys approved.....	640
Sutter.....	1 survey approved.....	480
Tehama.....	1 survey approved.....	320
Yuba.....	2 surveys approved.....	2,240
Mendocino.....	6 surveys unapproved...	1,920
San Joaquin.....	1 survey unapproved....	480
Santa Clara.....	1 survey unapproved....	480
Sutter.....	1 survey unapproved....	800
		12,160
Located under this Act at date of Report of 1860...		31,360
Total.....		43,520

#### SEMINARY LANDS.

Description.		Acres.
Amount of Grant of 72 Sections.....		46,080.00
Total located at date of Report of 1860.....	38,846.82	
Located in Humboldt District since.....	480.00	
Located in San Francisco District since.....	<u>320.00</u>	
Total returned to this office at date.....		39,646.82
Balance unreturned.....		6,433.18

The Locating Agents of the several Land Districts have informed me that they have received applications for the entire amount they were instructed to locate. I have a margin of nineteen hundred acres, to correct errors.



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## PUBLIC BUILDING LANDS,

In the Visalia, Humboldt and Stockton Districts, are all sold; three hundred and twenty acres in the Marysville, and nine hundred and sixty acres in the San Francisco District, although applied for, have not, as yet, been returned to this office.

### GRANT OF THE SIXTEENTH AND THIRTY-SIXTH SECTIONS FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

*Sold for Cash, under Act of April 22, 1861*

The total amount of this grant is over six million of acres. The area of the State being estimated to be near one hundred and ten millions of acres, we can only approximate at the probable amount reserved by the General Government throughout the State for which we are entitled to select other lands; exclusive of the mineral lands, I estimate it to be near three hundred thousand acres. Lists furnished me by the agents of Stockton, Marysville, and Humboldt Districts, show that we have already selected in those districts to the full extent that the United States officers are authorized to allow. A large number of locations can still be made; the private grants in the San Francisco District alone include certainly one hundred and twenty thousand acres of these lands, for which we should be permitted to select in part in other districts.

Steps should be taken at once to include Congress to give us lands, in lieu of those sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections, that contain mineral, as well as for the waste lands of the Colorado Desert.

The sales of these lands, since the passage of the law, to date, are exhibited in the following tables:

Description.		Acres.
Approved locations, surveyed lands.....	73,662.13	95,558.13
Approved locations, unsurveyed lands.....	<u>21,896.00</u>	
Received and on file in this office awaiting the expiration of the time required by section fifth of the Act:		
Applications on surveyed lands for.....	44,776.00	67,905.00
Applications on unsurveyed lands for.....	<u>23,129.00</u>	
Total located.....		<u>163,463.13</u>

Amount sold in the different Land Districts upon the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections proper:

District.	Acres.
In Stockton District, surveyed.....12,708.00	
In Stockton District, unsurveyed.....960.00	
In Humboldt District, surveyed.....2,428.00	
In San Francisco District, surveyed.....1,440.00	
In Marysville District, surveyed.....9,000.00	
In Visalia District, surveyed..... <u>960.00</u>	
	27,496.00
In Marysville and San Francisco, unapproved.....	6,169.00
	<u>33,665.00</u>

Lands taken in lieu of sections sixteenth and thirty-sixth, reserved or disposed of by the United States:

Description.	Acres.
Stockton District, approved, surveyed.....	15,094.22
Stockton District, approved, unsurveyed.....	18,016.00
Stockton District, unapproved, unsurveyed.....	2,720.00
Stockton District, unapproved, surveyed.....	1,880.00
Stockton District, unapproved, contested.....	<u>3,509.00</u>
	41,219.22
Stockton District, approved, surveyed.....	11,415.91
Stockton District, approved, unsurveyed.....	1,480.00
Stockton District, unapproved, unsurveyed.....	7,280.00
Stockton District, unapproved, surveyed.....	5,445.00
Stockton District, contested, surveyed.....	<u>1,040.00</u>
	26,658.91
San Francisco, approved, surveyed.....	3,720.00
San Francisco, approved, unsurveyed.....	1,440.00
San Francisco, unapproved, unsurveyed.....	8,640.00
Marysville District, approved, surveyed.....	16,896.00
Marysville District, unapproved, surveyed.....	26,464.00
Marysville District, contested.....	<u>320.00</u>
	43,680.00
Los Angeles District, unapproved, unsurveyed.....	480.00
	129,798.13
Of the Sixteenth Section proper.....	33,665.00
Total amount located.....	163,463.13

From the information obtained from the County Auditors of several counties, I learn that the sales of these lands, by order of the Boards of Supervisors, under the provisions of the Act of April twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, until its repeal have been eighteen thousand seven hundred and twenty acres as follows:

Counties.	Acres.
Merced.....	680
Humboldt.....	880
Placer.....	4,400
Sacramento.....	1,031
San Joaquin.....	6,433
Shasta.....	720
Siskiyou.....	2,320
Solano.....	160
Stanislaus.....	336
Tehama.....	280
Tulare.....	1,480
Total, as far as reported.....	18,720

Most of these lands have been paid for, either in full, or are bearing interest; some have merely been applied for, and no bond filed or further steps taken to secure them; and the parties will probably avail themselves of the advantageous terms offered under the present law to purchase from the State. In Amador, Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Napa, Nevada, San Francisco, Yolo, and Yuba, the county officers report that no sales have been made.

#### SCHOOL, SEMINARY, AND PUBLIC BUILDING LANDS SOLD TO DATE, FOR CASH

District.	Acres.
School 500,000 Acres Grant.....	261,197.83
Seminary Lands.....	39,646.82
Public Building Lands.....	5,120.00
Sixteenth and Thirty-Sixth Sections Grant.....	95,558.13
Applications on file Sixteenth and Thirty-Sixth Sections.....	67,905.05

	469,427.83
Under Warrants, surveyed lands.....	16,160.00
Under Warrants, unsurveyed lands.....	43,520.00
Total.....	529,107.83

## COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

At the request of the Board of Supervisors of Napa and Sonoma Counties, I last summer established the boundary line between the two counties; and also a portion of the line between Napa and Solano. As usual, I found difficulty in executing the work, arising from the ambiguity and careless wording of the statutes defining boundaries. These statutes should be revised. The expenses of survey were borne by the counties.

## STATISTICS.

But five reports have been received from County Surveyors. They are from-

A.D. Easkoot.....County Surveyor of Marin County.  
G.R. Turner..... County Surveyor of San Francisco County.  
George E. Drew..... County Surveyor of San Joaquin County.  
S. Worsley Smith..... Deputy County Surveyor of Santa Clara County.  
Samuel S. Rice..... County Surveyor of Siskiyou County.

Mr. Easkoot suggests some changes in the present law respecting roads and highways, to which I would respectfully call your attention. His report is herewith transmitted.

Mr. Turner, of San Francisco, urges the necessity of establishing the line between that county and San Mateo, and also recommends an immediate survey of the city of San Francisco. The want of a proper survey is already seriously felt. If longer delayed, much loss and inconvenience will be felt hereafter.

In his report to this office, Mr. Drew of San Joaquin presents his views of a method of reclaiming swamp lands, by flowing the water on the land, thereby raising it by the deposit of sediment. His plan is a good one, in some instances but will not serve on the lower waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. He also points out imperfections in the law providing for Annuling Certificates of Purchase, approved April ninth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and recommends its repeal.

The usual circulars were issued to the County Assessors; and in addition I prepared and had printed, at the expense of the State, blank forms, to aid them in the collection of the different data they are required to report. These were forwarded, in the proper proportion to the several counties. The following is a list of those who have

reported to this office. I am sorry to say that returns have been received from twenty-eight only; a smaller number than usual.

Alameda.....	M.G. Higgins, Assessor.
Amador.....	Francis Mc Grath, Assessor.
Butte.....	J. Bean, Deputy Assessor.
Calaveras.....	R.W. Dowling, Assessor.
Colusa.....	Unsigned.
Contra Costa.....	J.J. White, Assessor.
El Dorado.....	Lewis Foster, Assessor.
Fresno.....	Wm. Faymonville, Assessor.
Humboldt.....	A.W. Hanna, Clerk of Board Supervisors.
Klamath.....	J.H. Rector, Assessor.
Marin.....	J.B. Jacobs, Assessor.
Merced.....	Unsigned.
Napa.....	Robert Crouch, Clerk Board of Supervisors.
Sacramento.....	E.B. Ryan, Assessor.
San Diego.....	James McCoy, Assessor.
San Francisco.....	Charles R. Bond, Assessor.
San Joaquin.....	W.H. Neal, Assessor.
Santa Clara.....	W.R. Davis, Assessor.
Shasta.....	B. Gartland, Assessor.
Sierra.....	James Taylor, Assessor.
Sonoma.....	Charles C. Snider, Assessor.
Stanislaus.....	E.B. Beard, Assessor.
Sutter.....	R.A. Clarke, Assessor.
Tehama.....	L.B. Shaw, Assessor.
Trinity.....	F.D. Ketchum, Assessor.
Tuolumne.....	David Hays, Assessor.
Yolo.....	James McCaulay, Assessor.
Yuba.....	John Rule, Assessor.

In addition to the tables of statistics, Messrs. McGrath of Amador, J. Bean of Butte, R.W. Dowling of Calaveras, J.J. White of Contra Costa, L. Foster of El Dorado, L.B. Shaw of Tehama, F.D. Ketchum of Trinity, and James McCaulay of Yolo, furnished interesting reports, which are herewith transmitted, and to which I would respectfully call your attention.

In Amador County the assessment roll shows an increase in amount of taxable property of two hundred and twenty-two thousand seven hundred and thirty-four dollars over that of last year.

In El Dorado County there has been a corresponding increase of two hundred thousand dollars; and in Tehama of fifty-six thousand eight hundred and sixty-three dollars. In Yolo County there is a depreciation of two hundred and sixty-three thousand two hundred and forty-four dollars, and in Tuolumne of five hundred and sixty-eight thousand five hundred and forty-seven dollars, from the assessed value for eighteen hundred and sixty.

The Assessors of Sutter and Butte Counties mention the necessity of establishing the line between their respective counties. Mr. Bean, of Butte, states that this should be done also between Colusa, Plumas, and Butte. Having experienced much difficulty in accomplishing his duties in the absence of a properly defined boundary, he urges that the line be run prior to the first of March next. The county line between Alameda and Contra Costa should also be settled. Mr. White informs me that many persons living in the vicinity of it are not assessed at all.

Mr. Shaw, of Tehama, requests your honorable body to take some steps to insure the Government to dispose of the Nome Lackee reservation to settlers. It contains some twenty-five thousand acres. The soil is rich and productive, and the land can be readily sold to enterprising citizens, thus increasing materially the resources of the county.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H.A. HIGLEY

Surveyor-General, and Registor of State Land Office.

## REPORTS OF COUNTY SURVEYORS.

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### MARIN COUNTY.

ALFRED D. EASKOOT.....County Surveyor.

Office County Surveyor,  
San Rafael, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Hon. H.A. Higley,  
Surveyor-General :

SIR:- In obedience to the law, and in compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report of this county:

### SWAMP AND OVERFLOWED LANDS.

The number of surveys made on swamp and overflowed lands since my last report are three, numbering from 79 to 82. Number of acres, four hundred and seventy-three and thirty-eight one-hundredths; NO. 82 being a resurvey of No.68, so the actual number of acres surveyed are only three hundred and six and ninety-seven one-hundredths. The number of acres of swamp land remaining unsurveyed are about one thousand. No survey made on school or tide lands.

There has not been any of the swamp land reclaimed in this county, to my knowledge, although some of the claimants have made a commencement. A large

body of swamp land in this county could not be drained and made valuable for grazing or even agricultural purposes. In order to do this, a ditch should be cut along the bays and navigable creeks, about four feet deep and about five feet wide, and then there should be an embankment made on the outside of the ditch, about four feet high by five feet wide; the small creeks should have a dam made across them, connecting with the embankment, with a gate so as to keep out the tidewater and let out the water that may run into the creeks from the mountain streams, or what tide water may leak through the embankment; then by cutting some smaller ditches through these lands, so as to lead the water to the creeks, the land will become drained, and in a short time it would be suitable for cultivation or grazing. But to do this, I think, it would cost more than one dollar per acre. This should be done by large companies or the State.

## ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The law of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, on Roads and Highways, gives the Supervisors of the county the whole control of the roads and highways, which, I think, is entirely wrong, for as long as the Supervisors have the power to appoint viewers on roads there will not be any roads in this county. In the first place, the Supervisors have enough to do without attending to roads; and in the second place, they are not very particular who they appoint as viewers, for many times men are appointed who are interested in the lands where the roads are to go through, and as they have not qualified nor given bonds, they view out the roads to suit themselves or friends, and look but very little to the interest of the public and every year there are petitions to make some alterations in the roads, and all the money that has been expended on these roads will not be of any benefit to the public, when if the roads had been viewed out properly in the first place, and made where they should have been made, it would not have been necessary to have them altered, and the work that has been done on them would have been of some use to the county. If the county must pay for the lands that are taken for roads, let them be laid out where they should be, and have the right kind of men to lay them out. Now if the Legislature would pass a law that every county should elect two Road Commissioners, who should qualify and give bonds for the faithful performance of their duties, and that these two Commissioners, in connection with the County Surveyor, should form a Board of Road Commissioners, whose duty should be to lay out all roads, and to meet once in every three months for the purpose of receiving petitions for roads and when any petition is presented to them praying for a new road or an alteration in any road, the Commissioners should go and examine said proposed roads, and if in their opinion the public good requires a new road or alteration, they should have the road surveyed and marked out, and have it made a permanent location, then what money the county raises for roads let it be expended within the line of said roads, then by changing the name of the poll tax, and call it a road tax, I think that in a short time we would have some roads that could be traveled in the winter season without endangering the lives of both man and beast.

I have not finished the map of swamp land surveys in this county.

The total value of taxable property in this county is one million seven hundred and ninety-six thousand four hundred and twenty-five dollars.



Total tax, twenty-eight thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven dollars and seventy-two cents.

ALFRED D. EASKOOT  
Surveyor of Marin County.

## SISKIYOU COUNTY

SAMUEL S. RICE.....County Surveyor.

Office County Surveyor,  
Oro Fino, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Hon. H.A. Higley,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR:-In accordance with the law defining the duties of County Surveyors, I respectfully submit the following, my report of all surveys made by me during my term of office, beginning October, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, and ending October, eighteen hundred and sixty-one. Owing to the small amount of business transacted, I did not report the surveys of the last year, and will embrace them in this report.

## SURVEYED LANDS.

The whole number of acres surveyed in this department amounts to eight hundred and eighty, as follows, viz:

Survey No. 157.- The southeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section No. 22; the west half of the southwest quarter of section No. 23; and the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section No. 26, of Township No. 42, North, and Range No. 9, West, Mount Diablo base and meridian, embracing three hundred and twenty acres-surveyed November fourth, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, for E.F. Heroy.

Survey No. 160.-The southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section No. 23, of Township No. 42, North, and Range No. 6, west of Mount Diablo base and meridian, containing two hundred acres-surveyed December fifteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, for Feenaghty & Brother.

Survey No. 173.-The west half of the southeast quarter of Section No. 21, of Township No. 42, North, and range No.9, west of Mount Diablo base and meridian, including eighty acres-surveyed March twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty, for Smith & Bros.

Survey No. 179.-The north half and the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section No. 15; and the west half of the northeast quarter, and the west half of the southeast quarter of Section No. 22, of Township 42, North, and range No. 9, west of Monte Diablo base and meridian, containing two hundred and eighty acres-surveyed October fifteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty, for Thomas Widdess.

## UNSURVEYED LANDS.

The whole number of acres surveyed in this department amounts to six hundred and forty acres, as follows, viz:

Survey No. 174.-The north half of Section No. 3, of Township No. 43, North; and the southeast quarter of Section No. 34, of Township No. 44, North, and Range No. 9, west of Monte Diablo base and meridian, containing four hundred and eighty acres-surveyed August ninth, eighteen hundred and sixty, for J.S. Mathews.

Survey No. 178.- The southwest quarter of Section No. 28, of Township No. 42, North, and Range No. 9, west of Monte Diablo base and meridian, including one hundred and sixty acres-surveyed September twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and sixty, for Morris Priddy.

## SWAMP AND OVERFLOWED LANDS .

From the records of my predecessors, I am unable to determine whether any lands of this character have been surveyed or not.

I have had no applications for surveys of this kind, and am of opinion that there are but a few, except in the vicinity of Klamath and Tule Lakes, where, I understand, there are large tracts.

I shall proceed as early as practicable, in the spring, to survey any lands of this denomination in that vicinity.

## SCHOOL AND SEMINARY LANDS.

I have made no surveys under this head, there being no applications for lands of this character.

As to the table of statistics required by your instructions, I shall have to refer you to the report of the County Assessor, since my business does not call me from home enough to collect materials for a report of my own.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL S. RICE

Surveyor of Siskiyou County.

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## SANTA CLARA COUNTY

CHARLES T. HEALY.....County Surveyor.

OFFICE COUNTY SURVEYOR

San Jose, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1861

HON. H.A. HIGLEY

Surveyor-General

DEAE SIR:-Inclosed you will find the map, etc., of the segregation of the swamp lands in this county, and I herewith give you a general description of said land.

The land lying between the Penitencia creek and Steamboat slough is generally of a sandy or gravelly soil, which is easily reclaimed. But the Rancho de los Esteros has spread itself over it, thereby frightening off people wishing to locate the same. It is overflowed by the Penitencia and Coyote creeks-one both of which there are embarcaderos-and by Steamboat and several minor sloughs. The tide very seldom overflows to much extend, so that it could be very easily reclaimed. Captains John and Thomas West have ditched and reclaimed about three hundred acres, near Steamboat slough, and it is now very good grain land. They found that by planting plentiful irrigation of artesian water the alkali was entirely driven from the soil. Salt grass still springs up in some places, but does no damage. There is a thin-bladed grass growing upon the higher portion of this land, which cattle and horses seem to like very well. Between the Penitencia and Coyote creeks, the soil is almost entirely of sand, and a very good crop of grass grows upon it, but it overflows so late in the year that no crop can be raised until properly ditched. The town of Allviso is situated at the head of Steamboat slough, and upon swamp lands. The property owners there have just completed a dam and lock across the Guadalupe, and a small canal from the head of Steamboat slough to the Guadalupe, thus being able, when the tide is up, to turn the whole volume of water into Steamboat slough. This will add very much to the facility of navigating that slough.

The Guadalupe, although it has two or three warehouses on its banks, is not navigated now at all, on account of its being very crooked. From there west, the land can be reclaimed, although no one has as yet attempted such a thing. There are two or three minor sloughs making up into it, but are of not much consequence until you come to Whistmans's slough, which is immediately north of the Yrigo Rancho. Upon this slough there is a landing and vessels regularly ply to and fro. It was once located at this landing by Rodgers, but he afterwards abandoned the location. Running thence west, we pass over some very good land and numerous small sloughs, besides two or three quite large ones, until we come to the San Francisquito creek, the boundary between this and San Mateo County. At this place is situated an embarcadero, which is of some importance, as there is much trade at this place.

The lands embraced in my survey are all tide lands, and, except where improved, are covered with a thick growth of salt weed. I am told, however, that hogs like this kind of grass very much.

There have been but three locations in this country, previous to the passage of the Act of May thirteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, viz:

First location, by Martin Murphy, Jr., by Act of April twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five;

Second location, by Patrick W. Murphy, by Act of April twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five;

Third location by -----Paul, by Act of April twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five;

All of which, I believe, have been completed and patents obtained .

I have made a few locations lately, and have applications for about twenty more, which I will complete as fast as I can.

The railroad coming into this country enhances the value of the swamp lands very much, and the moneyed men of San Francisco are beginning to look out for it. I think I have applications enough to take up all in the county.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

You obedient servant,

CHARLES F. HEALY  
County Surveyor.

By S. WORSLEY SMITH, Deputy.

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SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY.

George R. Turner.....County Surveyor

OFFICE OF CITY AND COUNTY SURVEYOR,  
San Francisco, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

HON H.A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General of California:

SIR:- In compliance with the law, I herewith present to you my annual report:

The County of San Francisco being small in area, and the largest portion of it occupied by the city and several Spanish grants, there remains but a small extent for lands for the County Surveyor to work upon. This land has been owned or held by parties in possession, for the past ten years, and there are but a few surveys necessary.

The majority of my work is in the city, and it is of such a character that it would be impossible to embody it in a report suitable for your office.

I have made but few surveys in the county during the past year. With one exception, they have been confined to work under the sixteenth and thirty-sixth section Act, which locates land for school purposes. I have returned them to your office as fast as surveyed. The exception was a small piece located near the Seal Rock House, on land supposed to belong to the United States Government, (containing one hundred and eighteen acres,) located by H.H. Toland and Andrew Glassell.

It will give me great pleasure to return to your office, in a few days, a map of the City and County of San Francisco, showing the surveys made by me during the past four years.

I would again call your attention to the necessity of having the boundary line located between the Counties of San Francisco and San Mateo.

I would also call your attention to the fact of a public want of a resurvey of the city of San Francisco, as there being no initial point, and no defined width to the streets, determined by law, there necessarily arises a great deal of confusion in regard to the lines of the blocks, which, one day will result in a serious loss to the city.

Hoping you will act upon my suggestions, I have the honor to remain.

Your obedient servant,

GEO R. TURNER  
City and County Surveyor

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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY.

GEORGE E. DREW.....County Surveyor.

Office County Surveyor,  
Stockton, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

HON. H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR:-In compliance with the law, and instructions received from your office, I have the honor to submit herewith my report for the two months I have been in office. The short term which I have occupied the position of County Surveyor, enables me to present but a meager report; but lest it might be construed as a neglect of my duties or want of respect for your office, I present you with a report of my official acts during my term:

#### SWAMP AND OVERFLOWED LANDS.

I find, by reference to the books in this office, that there have been made in this county, eight hundred and nine surveys of swamp and overflowed lands. The large number of surveys made by my predecessor during the past four years leaves me but little to do. I have surveyed and returned to your office seven surveys of swamp and overflowed lands, embracing an area of seven hundred and twenty-one and eighty-five one hundredths acres.

In addition to this I have made three surveys of land forfeited to the State, embracing five hundred and four and fifty-nine one-hundredths acres.

I have also located three school lands warrants, of one hundred and sixty acres each, which location has been returned to your office.

My opinion is that some important changes should be made in the present swamp land laws; the Act to provide for the annulling of certificates of purchase of lands sold on a credit, approved April ninth, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, should be repealed. Under that Act, tens of thousands of acres of swamp lands are now held in

the name of parties, where the interest remains unpaid for three or four years. The payment of one year's interest enables a party to hold possession of the land for five years, as against other parties who wish to purchase the land. The remedy is too much on the circumlocution office style of doing business.

I am forced to differ with the Swamp Land Commissions, and the engineers appointed by them, in their indiscriminate system of reclaiming the swamp lands. So far as I know, in this section the universal practice is to leave the water off. Now there are thousands of acres of land in this county which I would reclaim by leaving the water on. You may perhaps ask, how? and why? I answer: by building a levee of sufficient height and strength at the lower end or side of the land sought to be reclaimed, thus permitting the water to flow on and become dead water. By this means a large amount of deposit or sediment from the rivers is obtained yearly-at least an average of from four to six inches, and in many places much more. The land could be used each year for grazing purposes. By this process, in a few years the lands would be effectually reclaimed, then build a light levee to provide against an unusual height of water, and the work is done. By the present system a large amount of labor and money is required at once, an annual expense must be incurred to keep the levees in repair, and the land is always below high water and subject to inundation. You have an example at Sacramento of the strength of levee required to keep the waters within the river banks-so it is in the tule land; if you attempt to confine the water to the channels, immense levees will be required. I am satisfied that the present system is one that will cause the expenditure of immense sums of money and be finally abandoned; space, however, will not permit me to go into detail in this matter.

In the improvement of county roads we are making little or no progress. A vote of our county last Fall refused to pay a special road tax, consequently we are enjoying the privilege of dragging through the mud. I am in hopes the next generation will see the necessity of having good roads, but I have no hopes of the present.

Truly, your obedient servant,

GEORGE E. DREW  
County Surveyor

# REPORTS OF COUNTY ASSESSORS.

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## AMADOR COUNTY.

FRANCIS McGRATH.....County Assessor.

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR,  
Jackson, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

HON. H. A. HIGLEY,  
SURVEYOR-GENERAL:

SIR:-In compliance with the law and the instructions contained in your circular, I respectfully submit the following report:

The blanks supplied me from your office have made the taking of statistics so much more easy, simple, and convenient, than heretofore, that I have been enabled to make the report full and accurate.

### FRUIT TREES AND VINES.

The increase in the number of certain kinds of fruit trees and vines is shown in the following table:

Description.	No. in 1860	No. in 1861
Apple Trees.....	32,263	40,806
Peach Trees.....	35,596	44,607
Pear Trees.....	5,951	6,319
Grape Vines.....	159,902	261,666
Hop Vines.....	.....	500

It is pleasing to see the attention and care that our citizens are giving to the cultivation of fruit trees and vines; that they succeed well is proved by the size, flavor, and quality of fruit.

Mr. Pardee, of Lone Valley, gathered this fall, eight hundred pounds of grapes from a vine of only six years growth.

Among our heaviest fruit growers I mention Messrs. Palmer & Co., Jeretich & Jordon, Dr. Page, Cheyron & Bro., B. Burt, C. Peters, Maj. Barbour, and J.H. Milton.

## STOCK

Stock of most kinds have decreased in number and value, yet many of our farmers having seen the necessity of improving the quality of their stock, have already secured many horses, bulls, rams, and jacks, of fine blood. Mr. H.S. Woodward, of Lone Valley, (the owner of Young Rattler, half brother of California's favorite, Jerome C. Davis's Rattler,) has during the last summer added seventy-five fine American horses and mares to his band. Mr. J.P. Martin, a large owner of stocks, has much increased the value of his herd by the great pains he has taken in improving the breed. Messrs. Castle & Barret, Crowningshield & Brother, H. Watters, A. Sollars, and many others whom I could mention, have expended large amounts of money in their successful endeavors to improve the quality of their stock.

## MISCELLANEOUS

We have three distilleries, manufacturing four thousand gallons of spirits per year, and the demand for the article manufactured steadily increasing.

We have one tan yard, which is in a very flourishing condition, producing leather of a most durable and excellent kind.

My predecessor, in his annual report, mentioned a coal mine in this county. It is situated one and a quarter miles southwest of Lone City, and owned by Mr. F.C. Hall. He has already driven in a tunnel to the distance of three hundred feet; the vein averaging in thickness about five and a half feet. The coal is worth, at the mine, five dollars per ton.

In comparing the assessment of the last year with that of the present, it will be perceived that there has been a gratifying increase; the assessment of last year amounting to two million three hundred and ninety five thousand one hundred and thirty-eight dollars, (\$2,395,138,) while that of the present is two million six hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-two dollars, (\$2,616,872.) This increase is owing more perhaps, to the location and improvement of land that has heretofore remained unoccupied, than to any other case. I also find, from an investigation of the books of last year, the whole number of assessments to have been sixteen hundred and twenty-five; those of the present year run up to nineteen hundred and fifty-showing the increase of the number of taxable inhabitants of the county to be three hundred and twenty-five.

Hoping that the report will meet with your approbation, I subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS McGRATH  
Assessor of Amador County.



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BUTTE COUNTY

W.D. VANTINE.....County Assessor.

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Oroville, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

HON. H.A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR:-I herewith enclose a statement of the agricultural and other statistics of Butte County, compiled from the assessment books for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-one, as also an abstract of the assessed value of real and personal property, with the amount of taxes for State and county purposes levied thereon.

Farmers, generally speaking, have reaped an average crop, though prices are low for grain, stock, etc.

The several branches of industry in this county, to wit; agriculture, mercantile, and mining, appear to be in a prosperous condition. One difficulty we experience is, that such a number of disputes, followed by suits at law, arise from lands claimed by possessions, and covered by Spanish grants, that there have been the improvements made that would have been made had these matters been settled.

The breed of stock of all kinds in this county is improving slowly, but steadily.

Fruit growing increased during the present year, and the greater part of the finer fruits are of excellent flavor. I will mention the orchards of Messrs. Bidwell, Henshaw, Woolen, and Durham.

The facilities for the cultivation of grape vines in this county, in many locations, are good, and some of the different classes of grapes are as fine as any raised in the State.

The mercantile business in this county is in, I think, a prosperous condition, though for some time past not so extensive as we could have wished; however, the trade with Oroville is slowly progressing, and as we have a railroad being built to connect Oroville with tide-water, we have no doubt of future prosperity, and within a short period of time. Within the past year we have had considerable improvement made at our county seat, in good and substantial buildings, and will, undoubtedly, within the incoming year, witness much more.

The principle seats of mining enterprise are at Oroville, Inskip, Dogtown, Cherokee Flat, Yankee Hill, and Forbestown. River mining I do not think is carried on to such an extent as in former years, although there are many claims being worked in Main, Middle, North, and South Forks of Feather river, above Oroville.

In quartz mining there is considerable work, and but few claims paying well. The heaviest mining operations in the county, successfully prosecuted, are located near Dogtown, on the hills of Big and Little Butte creeks, it being generally tunnel mining, and as a general thing, requiring the outlay of much capital.

The number of miles boundary necessary to be run in this county, at least, prior to March first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, I should say would be about sixty miles;

the said lines to be run between Butte and Sutter Counties, Butte and Colusa Counties, and Butte and Plumas Counties, there being much difficulty experienced by the Assessors of the several counties in making their assessments.

Of electro-magnetic telegraphs in this county, we have but one; its value is five thousand dollars, and extends about fifty-four miles in length.

Of timber of the county, the greater part is cedar and pine; oak is to be found generally in the valley, but the lands are heavily timbered.

The assessment of the present year, you will perceive, is not so large as in eighteen hundred and sixty. This may accounted for by the decrease in this valuation of stock since last year.

Tax of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, proportioned in the different funds, as follows:

Counties.	Acres.
State Fund.....	\$22,866.71
General County Fund.....	19,055.60
School Fund.....	3,811.11
Road Fund.....	1,905.56
Indigent Sick Fund.....	13,338.92
Special Fund.....	9,527.80
Railroad Fund.....	19,055.60
Total Tax for 1861.....	\$89,561.30

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W.D.VANTINE

Assessor of Butte County.

By J. BEAN, Deputy.

CALAVERAS COUNT.

ROBERT W. DOWLING.....County Assessor.

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Mokelumne Hill, November, 1861 .

HON. H.A. HIGLEY

## Surveyor General

SIR:-I beg leave herewith to transmit my annual report, in compliance with an Act of the Legislature of the State of California, passed April seventeenth, eighteen hundred and sixty.

### AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK.

It is gratifying to state that this county, although making no pretensions to agriculture-as, in fact, she was not designed by Nature, by reason of the unevenness of her surface, to excel to any great extent in that branch of industry-is yet showing those evident marks of progress even in that particular, as to probably place her upon an equality with many of her more favored sister counties in the State. Cereals of divers kinds are cultivated wherever practicable, but, as it cannot be expected that our hill sides will ever vie with the rich lowlands of the valleys, a slight falling if in the number of acres and consequent decrease of the number of bushels of wheat, compared with last year, will not be very surprising, although the aggregate number of acres under cultivation this year, is over eighteen hundred larger than that of the preceding year. This difference, however, is mainly attributable to the marked increase in this yield of hay, viz : a gain of nearly twenty-four hundred tons, or about seventy per cent. Over the product of last year. But if we have no special cause of self-adulation in the way of farm products-horticulture, on the other hand, has received an impetus highly laudatory to the enterprise and industry of our citizens. Fruit trees and vines of all kinds, have nearly, in all cases, been doubled in number this year, but in no particular is the increase so surprising as in the augmentation of the number of apple trees; for while these summed up in eighteen hundred and sixty, twenty thousand nine hundred and ninety-two, the aggregate for this year presents the astonishing array of two hundred and ninety-three thousand and sixty-six, or fourteen times the number of last year. Grape vines have more than doubled their yield, increased in about the same ratio; whilst the number of gallons of wine is nearly treble.

The extraordinary depreciation in the value of all sorts of horned cattle has not failed to be sensibly felt in this county, as well as elsewhere , hence the small increase of the number of this kind of property over last year. And to the increased demand of draft and riding stock in the neighboring Territory of Nevada, is probably owing the decrease of horses, mules, as compared with the returns of last year.

### MINING INTERSTS.

The mines, the principle source of revenue of this county, continue to yield bountifully. This remark is, however, not applicable alike to all the different localities, but to be taken in an average sense. Those localities in which the gold yield is dependent solely on the produce of surface ground, have seen, or will ultimately see, their sources refuse to yield the yellow stream; but those favored sections, where deep diggings prevail, have, generally, an undisturbed and long future before them, and there are, fortunately, many such in this county. The untiring energy and perseverance of the

miner have, within the past year, developed and opened up, some vast tracts of subterranean gold fields, thus securing remunerative employment to a large number of workmen. The most prominent among these discoveries is, probably, the region extending from Mokelumne Hill to the Calaveras River, for some six miles along what is known as Chile Gulch. The quartz mining interests are duly represented in this county, although not to that extent as in other portions of the State. The regions about Angels and West Point, are the Places where the most remunerative veins are worked at present. This branch of mining has not received, since the memorable days of eight hundred and fifty-one, that share of attention which its importance entitles it to, but is, nevertheless, generally working its way into the public favor and enlarging its number of votaries. It would be superfluous formally and methodically to announce here the discovery of extensive copper mines in the southeastern portion of this county, even if I had not alluded to it already in my last annual report. The fact of the existence of these mines is so well known, not only in the State, but, through shipments of the ore to the Atlantic States and Europe, also in those remote countries, that it would be entirely useless to adduce any testimony in their behalf. But considering that it is my province to report more minutely upon this subject, from its importance, both present and prospective, I deem it proper to enlarge here upon it. In my last, annual report, when referring to these then only lately discovered mines, the following sentence occurs: "I am confident in the undoubted mineral wealth of this section of our county." The experience of the last twelve months shows that I was not mistaken in my conclusion, and I take occasion here to reassert every particular of the above sentence. Practical experiments and the application (though to a limited extent as yet) of science, has led, since the above was written, to vast discoveries of new leads and the tracing up of the old ones. But, extensive as the discoveries of the past twelve months have been, the extent of the copper fields in this county is far from being explored, or even traced yet, and I here venture to predict, from actual personal observation resulting from extensive explorations in these regions, that copper fields will, before long, be discovered east of the Bear Mountains, in what I call the Cherokee range, lying north of east of, and running parallel with the Copperopolis mines. Still further east, another of these mineral belts is found, and mining laws established by the miners for their government. But these discoveries (on the San Domingo) are of a too recent date to enable me to report intelligently in regard to their extent or richness, but enough of them is known, however, to warrant the belief that the whole region will, ere long, be subjected to a thorough exploration. I will here refer again to my last report for the following passage: "It would amply repay the State for all the outlay that a State Mineralogist might make in giving this section a thorough scientific investigation, not only in connection with the discoveries already made, but to inaugurate a system of researches which will, as I am satisfied, lead to the discovery of other minerals, such as sulphur, antimony, and tin, traces of which have already been found by prospectors, unaided as they were by those indispensable guides-arts and science." The State Geologist has visited the copper region, and probably will make his official report in regard to it. But if, for some reason or other, he may have been hampered or restricted in his investigations, I would again respectfully represent, through you, the desirability and necessity of a systematic and thorough scientific exploration. Our miners and capitalists possess the energy and perseverance to work and develop any mine or region, that promises even a distant

return; but where, as in this kind of mining, science must be added to practical application, in order to be successful, it evidently becomes the duty of the State to lend a helping hand, and this the more so, when, as in the present case, the prospect is to encouraging, and only needs the fostering care of the State to insure, at no distant day, an inexhaustible mine of wealth to the whole country. It would be impossible, and certainly too uninteresting in a document like the present, to give a detailed description and statistics of the different leads and claims; but, in order to present some general and tangible idea of copper mining, I propose to append here an extract of a letter written to me by Mr. Hiram Hughes, an intelligent miner, and the original coverer of copper ore in this county.

“GOPHER MINS, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1861

Our Napoleon Lead, on Hog Hill, is proving Number One; we are down thirty-five feet on a lead of copper ore, varying from two to three feet in width. It is of the gray copper. Two men raise two tons per day, besides the timbering. The assays from the different qualities of sulphurets, up to the best ore, run from sixteen to twenty and eighty-five one-hundredths of metallic copper, five dollars in silver, and a trace of gold per ton. We have also the auriferous tellurium, which assays as follows, per ton:

#### ASSAYS OF TELLURIUM.

24.30 ounces Silver.....	\$1 30 per ounce.....	\$31 59	
1.82 ounces Gold.....	20 67 per ounce.....	37 61	
Total per ton.....	.....	.....	\$69 20

We have shipped sixty-six tons of copper ore from this claim, and have forty more ready for sacking. The tellurium lead is seven feet in width, between two copper leads.”

#### TIMBER.

As regards timber, for lumbering and other purposes, our supply is abundant, and consists chiefly of the different varieties of pine; and speaking of this, I should not forget to inform you that within the past year another Mammoth Grove has been found in this county, and a land claim, which includes the grove, has been taken up by Mr. Hutchings, of Magazine notoriety, so that we are likely to have opposition, even in Mammoth Groves, Big Trees, etc.

#### IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.

For the number of saw mills, number of feet of lumber manufactures and other improvements, I refer you to the following table:

Description.	No.	Value.
Steam Saw Mills.....	8	
Water Power Saw Mills.....	7	
Total number of Saw Mills.....	15	\$29,750.00
Number feet of Lumber Sawed.....	7,320,000	215,120.00
Steam Quartz Mills.....	13	
Water Power Quartz Mills.....	34	
Total number of Quartz Mills.....	47	64,650.00
Mining Ditches .....	68	
Miles of Mining Ditches.....	583	271,400.00
Inches of Water discharged.....	9,731	
Toll Bridges.....	8	27,800.00
Ferries.....	4	5,300.00
Blacksmith Shops.....	45	18,400.00
Butcher Shops.....	21	18,250.00
Foundries.....	2	2,500.00
Breweries.....	11	23,200.00
Gallons Beer Brewed last year @60c / gal.....	144,800	86,880.00
Soda Factories.....	4	4,520.00
Stage Lines.....	3	12,000.00
Telegraph.....	1	1,000.00
Catholic Churches.....	5	12,200.00
Protestant Churches.....	5	5,000.00
Theatres.....	4	3,800.00
School Houses.....	13	7,630.00
Hospitals.....	3	5,000.00

And to show you that we are “some” on billiards, we have in use sixty-six tables, valued at seventeen thousand five hundred and ninety dollars.

I find a steady increase in the number of taxable inhabitants since eighteen hundred and fifty-nine. The increase in eighteen hundred and sixty was two hundred and thirty-five; of this year about the same, or over four hundred in two years, and consequently an increase in the total value of property.

#### TAXABLE PROPERTY.

The taxable property, personal and real estate, for this year, sums up as follows, viz:

Real Estate.....	\$991,760.00
Personal Property.....	1,745,948.00

Against that of 1860:		\$2,737,708.00
Real Estate.....	\$813,034.00	
Personal Property.....	1,614,761.00	
		\$2,427,795.00

Leaving a balance In favor of eighteen hundred and sixty-one of three hundred and nine thousand nine hundred and thirteen dollars, or a gain of about eleven and one third per cent over last year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT W. DOWLING,  
Assessor of Calaveras County.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

J. J. WHITE.....County Assessor.

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR,  
Martinez, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

HON. H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR:- In compliance with your circular, and in conformity with the law, I herewith respectfully submit the following as my annual report:

This county was organized in the year eighteen hundred and fifty. Its boundaries are, North by San Pablo Bay and Sacramento River East by San Joaquin, South by Alameda, and West by the Bays of San Francisco and San Pablo.

#### OFFICERS

Name.	Office.	Residence.
Thomas A. Brown...	County Judge.....	Martinez.....
M. Shepard.....	District Attorney.....	Martinez.....

L.C. Wittenmyre	County Clerk & Recorder.....	Martinez.....
J. J. McEwen.....	Sheriff.....	Martinez.....
Obid F. Alley.....	Treasurer.....	Martinez.....
N. J. Clark.....	Assessor.....	San Pablo.....
M. R. Barber.....	Public Administrator.....	Martinez.....
John O' Doherty....	County Surveyor.....	Martinez.....
H. H. Fasset.....	Coroner.....	.....
G.H. Barret.....	Supervisor First Township.....	.....
Ira J. True.....	Supervisor 2nd Township.....	.....
J. T. Walker.....	Supervisor 3 <sup>rd</sup> Township.....	.....
F.M. Warmcastle....	Senator Eighth District.....	.....
Charles B. Porter...	Assemblymen.....	.....

## TERMS OF COURTS

*Seventh District Court*-Hon. E. W. Mc Kinstry, Judge. First Mondays of January, May and September.

*County Court*-Hon. Thomas A. Brown, Judge. First Mondays of August, November and February, and third Monday of May.

*Courts of Sessions*-Hon. Thomas A. Brown, Judge; E. F. Weld and Wm. Givan, Associates. First Mondays of August, November and February, and third Monday in May.

*Probate Court*-Hon. T. A. Brown, Judge. Fourth Monday of every month.

*Board of Supervisors*-Regular meeting first Monday of February, May, August, and November.

## AGRICULTURE.

This county is in quite a flourishing condition, financially and otherwise; large tracts of land are cultivated in every direction. The following is the number of acres enclosed and cultivated.

Number of acres enclosed.....	31,327
Number of acres cultivated.....	55,564

There are vast quantities of land still uncultivated, (remarkably fertile and most advantageously located.) owing to the unsettled condition of Mexican claimants. It is the great curse and drawback to not only the prosperity of this county but the prosperity of the State at large.

The amount of tillable and grazing land in this county, according to the best information I can get, is about one hundred and ninety-five thousand acres. The swamp and overflowed lands, about forty-nine thousand acres. The latter is attracting



considerable attention. Since the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, I am informed, about fifteen thousand acres have been secured.

The valleys in this county extend all the way from fifteen to twenty miles, and are well watered. Even on the hills and mountains innumerable springs are found affording excellent pasture the whole year round for stock of all kinds. Cattle and sheep have done very well; the prices for them are very low and discouraging. Considerable improvement is continually going on in all descriptions of stock-raising in this county-particularly in sheep and horses; the latter, as exhibited at our county Fair, showed that no little attention or pains were taken to improve the breed. In the business of sheep-raising it is certainly difficult to select a better locality, both as to climate and advantages of pasturage, and several persons have taken advantage of the same, as can be seen by the numerous herds that are grazing in the different valleys all over the county. Nor have I heard of any disease existing among them, other than what can be easily remedied by proper care and attention.

In the business of farming this year, I find that in San Ramon and vicinity, for miles around in fact, about an average crop has been harvested-principally wheat, and of a very good, clean quality. This locality is very much favored for producing wheat; seldom, if ever, is there a failure of the crop, and producing from forty to seventy-five bushels to the acre.

How different is it in the valley of San Pablo and its vicinity? Where a large quantity of land has been put into cultivation, without producing an average crop, and that, too, of an inferior kind, particularly the wheat; barley and oats have produced better, and the quality fair. As a general thing, our farmers here in San Pablo are not practical men. They go in for cultivating large tracts of land, and plough their land rather in a slovenly manner, and skimming it over, scarcely turning over enough of the soil to cover the seed. In my neighborhood, (San Pablo valley,) all those farmed in this way are bankrupt; those of my neighbors who are practical men, and even pay for their land from four to five dollars per acre rent, and farm small quantities, have invariably made money every year, and are comparatively comfortable and independent. I see plainly, from my experience, that farming little land and cultivating it well is what will pay.

#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Products this year are as follows: Twenty five thousand one hundred and forty-seven acres of wheat; eleven thousand nine hundred and thirty-six acres of barley; eight thousand one hundred and ninety-six acres of oats; one-hundred and five acres of rye; two hundred and sixty-nine acres of corn; seventy-two acres buckwheat; fifty-nine acres of peas; four hundred and thirteen acres of beans; ninety-nine acres of sweet potatoes thirteen acres of onions nine-thousand three hundred and thirteen acres of hay; three acres of flax; eleven acres of tobacco; forty-one acres of alfalfa; twenty-five acres of broom corn; fifty-one thousand pounds of butter; thirty-nine thousand one hundred and ninety-seven pounds of cheese; two hundred and ninety-one thousand eggs; ninety-seven thousand pounds of wool; one hundred and sixty pounds of honey.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES.

Fruit of every description is not cultivated in as great quantities, perhaps, as in other counties in the State, but the quality is not excelled of any description; and as for the grape culture, this climate is unsurpassed, as is proven by the quality and perfection of the different varieties cultivated, as well as the quality of the different descriptions of wine produced.

In the orchard of Dr. Streutzel, in Alhambra valley, within two miles of the county seat, (Martinez,) five different varieties of the grape were cultivated to great perfection, from which was manufactured white, red, Lacrime, and Angelica wine, considered by epicures and connoisseurs superior to any wines of the kind in the State; also, equally as high flavored as most foreign wines of the same description. The Doctor's orchard is certainly an exception. The extent of it is about twelve or fourteen acres. There are ten thousand grape, two thousand apple, two thousand peach, one thousand pear, six hundred plum, five hundred apricot, fifty orange, lemon and citron, in a very flourishing state; two olive, eighty pomegranate trees, and numerous other descriptions of fruit to be found in this orchard, all in a beautiful state of cultivation, and located in the State. In other districts of the county, all around the base of Mount Diablo, there are numerous small valleys where the vine is cultivated also extensively and yields abundantly.

## LIVE STOCK.

In enumerating the quantity of live stock, I find that there are, of horses of all kinds, about eight thousand one hundred and nineteen head; of American. Three thousand five hundred and nineteen; tame and wild half-breeds and Spanish, four thousand six hundred; mules, five hundred and thirty-five; asses, five; cows, five thousand and sixty-nine; calves, four thousand one hundred and thirty-six; stock cattle, eleven thousand nine hundred and sixteen; beef cattle, five thousand and thirty-seven; oxen, seven hundred; sheep, twenty-one thousand; goats, one thousand nine hundred; thirty, large and small; chickens, thirty-nine thousand; turkeys, twenty-one thousand; ducks, one thousand three hundred; geese, one thousand seven hundred; bee hives, one hundred and twelve.

The county also boasts of an inexhaustible supply of coal, particularly in the region of Mount Diablo, where several mines are now open and working, from which large quantities are being exported to market. Shafting and tunneling is going on extensively, and a large amount of capital is being invested in further developments of the kind. Very recently, other coal mines have been discovered in the neighborhood of San Pablo creek, within four or five miles of the village of San Pablo. I confidently prognosticate that when the proper encouragement is given, by the settlement of land titles, the resources of the county, when more thoroughly developed, will really be astonishing. In short, the progress and prosperity and marked improvements in agriculture, the mechanic arts, and business generally, is very encouraging.

The roads throughout the county are in a very bad condition, particularly the road from San Pablo to the county seat. Travelers on this route run risks of their lives in going to and from these places in any kind of vehicle. The journey most of the way-a

distance of eighteen miles-is very mountainous, and it will require the sum of three or four thousand dollars to put it in travelling condition.

The importance of establishing more clearly the boundary line between this county and Alameda, is very necessary, owing to the difficulty of making the necessary assessments. Very many persons in the vicinity of this line are not assessed at all, or prefer being assessed in Alameda County, as the tax levied in that county is much less than in this. Therefore, it is to be hoped that the Legislature will order a proper survey of this line.

It will be seen, by referring to my statistical report, that comparing the value of property in the county for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-one with the value for the year eighteen hundred and sixty, the amount falls far below for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-one, in personal property a little over three hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars, owing to the great depreciation in the value of stock of all kinds.

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL KINDS OF PROPERTY, FOR THE YEAR 1861.

Description.	Value..
Real Estate.....	\$679,129.00
Improvements.....	322,352.00
Personal Property.....	950,914.00
Total.....	\$1,952,395.00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. J. WHITE

Assessor Contra Costa County.

EL DORADO COUNTY

LEWIS FOSTER.....County Assessor

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR

Placerville, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Hon. H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

DEAR SIR:-In conformity with law, I have the honor to transmit the following, my annual report, as Assessor of El Dorado County:

For the past three years I have found it extremely difficult to meet, in full, the requirements of the law, in my reports. And an experience of four years as Assessor, has led me to the belief that the detailed statements of most of the County Assessors

who pretend to be at all accurate, are mere matters of speculation, and not founded upon correctly ascertained data. Your desire being only to obtain *facts*, I shall make no draw upon the imagination to particularly answer all the inquires made in your circular to County Assessors, but rather confining myself to actual statistics obtained, than to any *appearance* of official exactness, which all Assessors, of any experience, must know is the merest pretence and guess work.

Although El Dorado may be strictly called a mining county, yet nearly every available spot, whether hill or valley, is pre-empted for agriculture, horticulture, or grazing purposes. The total amount of land claimed is two hundred and five thousand nine hundred and twenty-three acres; of which there are under cultivation twenty-eight thousand seven hundred and fifty-eight acres-leaving for grazing purposes one hundred and seventy-seven thousand one hundred and sixty-five acres. The amount pre-empted since my report of last year, is over fifty thousand acres. This is a striking indication that the heretofore migratory miners who till of late have made California but temporary abiding place, are now laying the foundation for permanent and happy homes in the future. This is not to be wondered at, since a well cultivated acre or two, even in our mountainous regions, in many instances prove as remunerative as large farms in the older States.

The quantity of grain grown is not large, the greater portion of which is cut for hay-this being the most profitable farm crop raised, especially on lands not favorably located for irrigation. Nearly all who are engaged in agriculture are, more or less, interested in fruit growing, in which they succeed as well, if not better, than in most of the agricultural counties. At least, fruit raised in this county brings as fair, if not a higher price, than that in any other location in the State.

Coloma, the primitive county seat of El Dorado County, is renowned for its fruit as it is for being the place where gold was first discovered. The gardens there are among the oldest in the county, and, from peculiarity of location and climate, are probably not expelled by any in the State. Other locations of our county are fully equal to that of Coloma in the production of quality and quantity of fruit, but it is not quite so early in ripening.

#### FRUIT TREES, ETC.

The number of fruit trees, as appears from the statistics of the present year, is as follows:

Description.	Number.
Apple.....	84,965
Peach.....	77,103
Plum.....	4,900
Cherry.....	2,497
Pear.....	8,882
Apricot.....	1,816
Nectarine.....	1,787
Almond.....	496
Fig.....	485

Quince.....	3,303
Grape-vines.....	617,028

Much interest is manifested in the cultivation of the grape, as appears from the increased number reported. Last year the number reported was three hundred and fifty thousand. This year it amounts, in numbers, to six hundred and seventeen thousand, the greater number of which are but two years old. There are quite a number of vines, however, that are four to seven years old, which have already borne sufficient to test the wine-making qualities of the grape-proving, beyond doubt, that wine-making, at no distant day, will be an important branch of California industry.

In the eastern portion of the county, the various species of pine is found in great abundance, consisting of the sugar, pitch, and spruce, of which the best of lumber is made and shipped, in immense quantities, to the valleys below.

There are in the county twenty-one steam and nineteen water-power saw mills-all doing a flourishing business. There are also five steam and seven water-power quartz mills-not more than one third in operation. Also, one water-power grist, four soda factories, one distillery, twelve breweries, one machine shop, eight cement mills, fourteen toll roads, fifteen toll bridges, five marble quarries, and over two hundred miles of telegraph line.

There are sixty-four ditches, being in the aggregate, six hundred and forty-seven miles in length, the principle of which are the South Fork canal, the Eureka, and the Pilot and Rock creek. The South Fork is taken out of the South Fork of the American River, and furnished water to Placerville, Gold Hill, and surrounding county. The Eureka canal takes up the waters of the North Forks of the Consumnes River, and supplies the county from Diamond Springs to the southwestern line of the county. The Pilot and Rock creek takes up the water of Pilot and Rock creek, and furnishes Georgetown, Greenwood, Spanish Flat, and, in fact, the whole divide between the South and Middle Forks of the American River.

## LIVE STOCK.

The increase in the number of live stock during the past year is not large, resulting from the fact that all small dealers are getting out of the business, at almost any sacrifice, while large dealers-with the present low process-have had little to stimulate them to increase their bands.

The number, as appears from my statistics, is as follows:

Description.	Number.
Horses.....	2,277
Colts.....	421
Mules.....	1,130
Jacks.....	36
Cows.....	4,021
Calves.....	1,965

Oxen.....	1,584
Stock Cattle.....	4,732
Hogs.....	7,632
Sheep.....	3,285
Goats.....	510

In comparing the assessment of last year with this, it will be seen that there has been a steady increase in the value of real estate and improvements. The total amount of property assessed is three million seven hundred and ninety-four thousand one hundred and twenty dollars. The total value of real estate is five hundred and forty-six thousand three hundred dollars. The value of improvements is one million two hundred and five thousand and eighty dollars. The amount of personal property is two million forty-two thousand seven hundred and forty dollars. An increase over last year's assessment of two hundred thousand dollars.

Very respectfully,  
LEWIS FOSTER,  
County Assessor.

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TEHAMA COUNTY

L. B. SHAW.....County Assessor.

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR,  
Red Bluff, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Hon. H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR:-In compliance with law, and your circular of the fourth of March last, to County Assessors, I herewith transmit to you the following as my official report of the statistics of Tehama County for the current year:

The many difficulties in the way of an Assessor's obtaining the information you desire, and which is of so much interest to the State at large, are sufficiently obvious to serve as an explanation for what may be considered inaccuracy or neglect. As, for instance, in the quantity of hay and grain, which can only be approximated, for the reason that the Assessor commences the discharge of his duties in the month of March, when the crop is growing, and according to law not liable to taxation; while in the course of three months his neighbors, who has harvested his hay and grain, may be assessed for the same.

## COUNTY BOUNDARIES AND AREA OF SQUARE MILES.

For the boundaries of this county I refer you to an Act of the Legislature entitled an Act to alter and define the boundaries of Tehama County; approved April nineteenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, and inasmuch as you require suggestions relative to the necessary alteration of county boundaries, it may not be inappropriate in me here to remark that the Act above referred to was against the well known wishes of a large majority of the people of Tehama County, and its immediate repeal would meet their hearty approbation, and be nothing but a simple act of justice to all concerned.

The area of square miles can hardly be approximated, for the reason that the most of the boundaries of this county are natural and have never been surveyed. As, for instance, first-the line beginning at a point on the Sacramento River, on a section line, and running west to the summit of the coast range of mountains. Second-the line beginning at the mouth of Battle Creek and following its middle channel to the western line of Plumas County. The two other lines are equally indefinite.

## AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

There are about two hundred thousand acres of tillable land, most of which is admirably adapted to the production of grains and fruits of almost every variety, and vegetables of every description, and in the greatest abundance. With reference to vegetables this is particularly the case on the east bank of the Sacramento River, where the beautiful mountains streams of Antelope, Battle, Mill, and Deer creeks, all afford, the year round bountiful supplies of water for purposes of irrigation.

As shown by the Assessor's books, there are deeded from the United States and Mexico, in this country, one hundred and twenty-three thousand and fifty-eight acres of land, ninety-one thousand hundred and eighty-nine of which are contained within the surveys of six Mexican grants, to wit: the Soucos Ranch, the Rio de los Molinos, the Bosque Rancho, the Boranco Rancho, the Rancho de los Flores, and El Rancho del Primer Cañon. These immense grants of land, after being for years in litigation-which necessarily prevented their improvement and cultivation-have all been finally confirmed, and I believe, patented to their respective owners; since which time they have been constantly disposing, to good and industrious farmers, at moderate process, and on easy terms, homes for themselves and their families, affording the purchaser an opportunity of paying, within a few years, for the land, from a mere surplus of productions from the soil.

The remaining thirty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine acres are generally along the low foot-hills and in the small valleys on creeks which empty into the Sacramento River; and while the lands are somewhat broken and not of the best quality for agricultural purposes, yet they produce fair crops of hay, grain and vegetables, and afford better range for stock of all kinds than the low lands along the Sacramento River.

## NOME LACKEE INDIAN RESERVATION.

One of the most important subjects to which it is my duty to call your attention, is this Reserve; located in the southwestern portion of this county, between and near the head waters of Elder and Thames creeks, and containing twenty-five thousand acres of land, it has ceased to be of benefit whatever to the Indians or in any manner beneficial to the interests of the Government. This place was established in eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and at that time the location and objects of the Reserve were calculated to give protection to the citizens and their property in that portion of our county. Then that section of country, which at that time was in Colusa County - it being the formation of this - was sparsely settled with whites, while it was crowded with Indians who were constantly committing depredations. The purposes for which the Reservation was established have been attained, and there is no longer any necessity for its existence.

Within the limits of this Reservation is some excellent agricultural land, while it affords the best grazing range in all this section of country. It is now of no practical benefit to the Indians, as it is not cultivated for their subsistence and furnishes them neither a home nor protection.

This tract of land, if cut up or divided into small parcels, say one hundred and sixty or three hundred and twenty acres each, and sold to our citizens, would open to industry and enterprise a rich and productive section of our county, and add greatly to our taxable property.

In view of all the circumstances, it is suggested that our next Legislature take some steps by which the General Government may be induced to make some disposition of it to our citizens, either for cash or on time -respecting no one's right to pre-emption; as parties who have gone on the reserved lands of the Government as mere trespassers, should not now be allowed to reap benefits resulting from their wrong doing, in preference to those who have always respected the Reserve.

## MINERAL SPRINGS.

The celebrated Tuscan Springs are situated within seven miles of the town of Red Bluff, in a beautiful cañon completely surrounded by mountains , presenting an appearance romantic in the extreme. They are about thirty in number, and what is most remarkable, each differing in some particular. The waters of these springs are thrown to the surface by the action of the hydrogen gas, through the fissure of the rocks, and all embraced in an area of one acre of ground.

The waters contain sulphur, salt, sulphuric acid, muriatic acid, boracic acid, magnesia, strongly impregnated with iron and iodine, and many other minerals. They have proven themselves beneficial to most of the diseases to which the human system is heir, especially in rheumatism, syphilis in all its forms and stages, colds, coughs, inflammation of the eyes, and diseases of the throat and lungs. Mr. M. Meador, the proprietor of these wonderful springs, has erected steam or vapor baths, produced by the burning of the gases which escape from the springs, which perhaps render them superior to any other baths on the pacific coast. The gas which heats the water is taken from the same springs which supple the bath tubs. The country all around these



springs abounds with game, and with small expenditure of money this could be made one of the most beautiful and pleasant watering places in the world.

We have four grist mills now in operation.

1. The Red Bluff Mill, which is owned by Messrs. Williams & Co., of Sacramento; it has three run of stone, is propelled by steam and was built in 1854, at a cost of thirty thousand dollars. It has ground during the present year thirty-five thousand bushels of wheat, three hundred bushels of rye, and three hundred bushels of Indian corn; making in all thirty-five thousand six hundred bushels of grain.
2. The Battle Creek Mill, which is owned by W.C. Carver it has two run of stone, is propelled by water, and has ground during the past year twenty-five thousand bushels of grain.
3. Dye & Butler's Mill which is situated on Antelope creek, opposite and within four miles of the town of Red Bluff, is a large and splendid frame building, with one of stone, to which they expect to add two more by the next year; it is propelled by water, and has just commenced grinding.
4. The Tehama Mill is situated opposite and within one mile of the village of Tehama. It has just been completed at a cost of about thirty thousand dollars, is of immense size, built of pebble stone, with four run of stone. Has ground one run of stone, in fourteen hours and ten minutes, sixty barrels of flour, and has ground since its completion, about five thousand bushels of wheat. This mill is owned by Samuel Jaynes, Esq., and estate of the late P.L. Miner, and is a credit to Tehama County as well as its builders.

There is also a grist mill now being erected on Deer creek, which is intended to be propelled by water, and to have two months run of stone. It is the property of W.P. Mayhew, Esq.

We have now but one saw mill, which is situated on the head waters of Thames creek, is owned by Mssrs. Gillman & Paten, and has sawed during the present year, seven hundred thousand feet of lumber.

The Antelope Mill, which was destroyed by fire in August last-before which time sawed about four hundred thousand feet of lumber was owned by J.F. Dye, Esq.

#### BRIDGES AND FERRIES.

We have but two bridges, both of which are located on Cottonwood creek. We have ferries- all located in the Sacrament River.

#### TELEGRAPH.

We have in this county forty-two miles of electro-magnetic telegraph, with two offices, which have taken in during the year four thousand dollars.

#### LIVE STOCK.

There is a large increase since last year in stock of every description; but owing to the unprecedented depreciation in value, the assessment on stock alone is not so large as

it was last year. So low, in fact, is it, that our farmers and stock raises are, many of them, disposing of all but sufficient to answer their individual uses, and are turning their attention to various other industrial pursuits. The only branch of stock raising which offers any inducements to stock raisers is that of sheep; and I believe there has been attention paid to, and interest taken in them during the past year, than any other. There are now in this county many imported bucks of the French Merino and Southdown breeds. As will be seen by references to the statistics, we have in this county.

Description.	Number.
Horses.....	1,968
Mules.....	1,024
Cattle.....	38,947
Sheep.....	16,850
Hogs.....	22,407

#### ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY.

Description.	Number.
Assessment for the present year.....	\$2,143,076.00
Assessment last year.....	2,086,213.00
Increase of assessment.....	\$56,863.00

Thus will be seen by reference to the statistics of our county since its formation, a steady increase from year to year in wealth and prosperity.

You will please find enclosed schedule of statistics.

All of which I respectfully submitted.

L. B. SHAW,  
Assessor.

By A. H. WEBB, Deputy.

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TRINITY COUNTY.

F. D. KETHCAM.....County Assessor.

Office County Assessor,  
Weaverville, October 7<sup>th</sup> 1861.

HON, H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR:-In compliance with you request, I have the honor to submit my report for the current year. The report is not as full in many particulars as I could have wished. I find it almost impossible to comply strictly with the requirements of the law, but have done so to the best of my ability. Our county is principally a mining county, our population is rather migratory. There is a decided advance in general improvements, and in our prosperity although the assessment list does not show that way, property is given in at lower rates than heretofore. Cattle, in particular, have fallen in price at least thirty percent from last year's rates; the cause, I think is, that the supply is increasing very fast. People are giving the rearing of stock more attention than heretofore.

The area of our county I have no means of arriving at correctly; its boundaries are irregular, mostly natural land-marks, by mountain and stream. Trinity has large proportions of mineral lands what agricultural land there is, located in mountain valleys and benches, and occasionally river bottoms, and generally very productive. We have an abundance of vegetables for our own home consumption. Of grain and flour we import a large proportion. As it is more profitable to cut grain green, for hay, than to let it ripen for grain, by this course we have plenty of hay for home use. Corn does well in some portions of the county. On the farm, of Mr. Henry Allen, at Hyampom, a valley on the South Fork of Trinity River, fifteen acres produced sixty-five bushels per acre. Our mountain sides and valleys are well adapted to grazing purposes, except in winter, on account of the deep snow, when we drive most of our stock to the Sacramento valley.

Of timber, it is generally abundant, and in many localities inexhaustible. The varieties are sugar, pitch, and spruce pines, several species of oak, and some ash, which last is scarce. We have the cottonwood, alder, madronna, Manzanita, which are not thought to be of much value except for fuel.

Our mines are river, surface, and tunnel, diggings, which pay fair average wages; some very rich. Of quartz we have no mines developed.

Of fruits, we have many small orchards, but they do not meet the expectations of their growers, except in favored localities. We have very late frosts in the spring, which blast most of the fruit in elevated and exposed positions. In the western portion of the county, on the Trinity River bottoms, the orchards are very productive. The fruit mostly raised is the peach and apple. The grape is somewhat cultivated, but does not seem to be a source of much profit.

Bees have been introduced into our county this year, and seem to be doing well.

Our roads, until the last few years, were the hardest kind of pack-mule trails. But now we have in the populous portion of the county good wagon roads, for which we are more indebted to individual exertion than to our road laws. We have two turnpike roads, on which tolls are taken, but our roads are still far from being what they should be for safety and comfort.

Of schools, we have district schools four in number, three of which are quite small, the other will compare favorably with the best district schools. Our population is scattered over a large extent of country, and in many places sparsely settled; not over two thirds of the children can attend school.

Of manufacturing establishments, we have none of importance. Two tanneries on a small scale, four breweries, and a few shops for repairing, are about all we have.

For further particulars I refer you to accompanying schedule. Hoping this will meet your approbation,

This is respectfully submitted.

F. D. KETCHAM,  
County Assessor.

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TUOLUMNE COUNTY.

DAVID HAYS.....County Assessor.

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR,  
Sonora, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

HON. H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

DEAR SIR:-In accordance with the laws of this State concerning the duties of County Assessors, I herewith return you the following statistical report of the value and resources of this county for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-one. According to the report, you will find that our county is not in as flourishing a condition as when I submitted my last report. The causes are various; the principal one being the continued breaking and destroying of two of our largest ditches last fall and winter, which threw out of employment a large number of miners, causing many to remove from the county, in which there seemed to be but little protection to property; also, affecting all branches of business, depreciating the value of real estate, and all kinds of improvements. Another cause has been the erecting of large and costly quartz mills, some of which have failed to pay, causing a large depreciation in that kind of property, as you will see by comparing this with my former report.

Our placer mining is as extensive and in as flourishing condition as formerly, since the settlement of our ditch troubles. River mining is still good, a larger number being engaged in that branch of mining than at any other period during the last three years.

The fruit culture is on the increase, but the value of all kinds is much less than last year. The grape culture is improving yearly; more on account of the manufacture of wine than for any other use, some being of as fine a quality as made in the State.

The lumber interests of our county is as extensive and as prosperous as in past years. All kinds of live stock have depreciated in value about one third less than last year.

The assessed value of real estate is one hundred and fifty-one thousand four hundred and twenty-five dollars; of improvements, one million three hundred and sixty-five thousand nine hundred and twenty-five dollars; of personal property, one million two hundred and twenty-five thousand one hundred dollars; and a total of two million seven hundred and forty-four thousand four hundred and fifty dollars, or a depreciation of five hundred and sixty-eight thousand five hundred and forty-seven dollars from the assessed value for the year eighteen hundred and sixty. For more and full particulars, please refer to schedule enclosed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DAVID HAYS,  
County Assessor.

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YOLO COUNTY.

JAMES McCAULEY.....County Assessor.

OFFICE COUNTY ASSESSOR  
Washington, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1861.

Hon. H. A. HIGLEY,  
Surveyor-General:

SIR:-In conformity with the law, and in compliance with your circular, I respectfully submit the following report of the statistics of Yolo County for the present year. And, if in commenting upon any of its subject matter, I am not as elaborate as could be desired, I hope you will attribute it to those intervening difficulties that are so apparent to every one who is acquainted with the duties of an Assessor.

Yolo County is located in the heart of the great Sacramento valley, lying between thirty-eight degrees twenty minutes and thirty-eight degrees fifty minutes north latitude, and between one hundred and twenty-one degrees twenty-eight minutes and one hundred twenty-two degrees two minutes longitude west from Greenwich; bounded on the north and east by the Sacramento River, on the south by the Rio de los Putos, and on the west by the dividing ridge of mountains known as the Coast range. Its county seat (unfortunately for its citizens, a very migratory thing,) is at present located at the

town of Washington, on the Sacramento river, and directly opposite the city of Sacramento.

Yolo is an agricultural and grazing county, and as such, possesses, perhaps, one of the most desirable localities in the State, as it already finds a competent market for its productions in the city of Marysville at a convenient distance on the one side, and the city of Sacramento on the other; together with the Marysville and Benicia Railroad (in prospective) running directly through its centre.

It contains according to the census of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, a population of four thousand seven hundred and forty-seven; being an increase over eighteen hundred and fifty-two of three thousand four hundred and forty.

## LANDS.

The greater portion of the lands of this county are covered by Spanish grants to wit:

First. The Rancho Carmel, or Knight; comprising eleven leagues, and covering the young and prosperous town of Knight's Landing.

Second. The Laguna de Santos Calla; comprising ten leagues, and lying on the north side of the Rio de los Lutos, or Putos Creek.

Third. The Rancho Cañada de Capay; comprising seven leagues, covering the valley lands of the Cache Creek canon and surrounding hills.

Fourth. The Rancho Jesus Maria; comprising six leagues, and lying on both sides of the Rio Maria or Cache Creek-covering the little village of Cacheville, formerly county seat.

Fifth. The Guessisose, or Gordon, containing two leagues, lying immediately on the north bank of Cache Creek, and owned by William Gordon & Sons.

Sixth. The Rancho los Putos, or Wolfskill, lying on both sides of Putah creek, adjacent to the foot hills of the Coast Range of mountains.

Of the swamp and overflowed land of the county I have but little practical knowledge, and as it comes more directly under the notice of the County Surveyor, I presume that he will give in his report all information that I could give.

Of the agricultural lands it is necessary to say but little. Like all other lands in the Sacramento valley, their fertility and fruitfulness are well known throughout the State. Practical experience has proven them capable of producing in abundance all the grains and fruits indigenous to almost every climate and zone. Wheat, barley, rye, oats, corn, broomcorn, buckwheat, beans, beets, peas, potatoes, pumpkin, onions, melons, etc., yield up to the husbandman an abundant harvest; whilst the growing of tobacco, hops, hemp, flax, etc., is no longer an ideal speculation, but a proven fact. And from my own practical knowledge of their cultivation in the Atlantic States, I am well satisfied that, with proper knowledge of the cultivation, they can be grown, "not only as specimens of possibility," but more profitably than in the Atlantic States. From what I have seen of the growing of tobacco in the county, I am satisfied that it can be grown to advantage wherever the land can be irrigated, and cured in our September and October sun with but little fear of frost or rain. Sugar cane, alfalfa, and herdsgrass, flourish well; also, cotton and rice. Here the apple, pear, peach, plum, and their kindred varieties, grow in such rich luxuriance as well might tempt another Adam to fall from grace.

We have, according to statistics:

### LAND UNDER CULTIVATION.

Description.	Acres.
Land enclosed.....	100,000
Land cultivated.....	50,795
Wheat.....	12,000
Barley.....	28,000
Hay lands.....	9,000
Rye.....	100
Corn.....	200
Broom Corn.....	30
Potatoes.....	400
Peas.....	50
Beans.....	20
Onions.....	25
Buckwheat.....	10
Land cultivated in Fruit Trees, about.....	9,960

### FRUIT TREES.

Description.	Number.
Apple.....	50,000
Peach.....	98,000
Pear.....	11,456
Plum.....	23,076
Cherry.....	2,760
Nectarine.....	20,423
Apricot.....	6,248
Quince.....	500

### VINES, ETC.

Description.	Number.
Grape Vines.....	24,623
Strawberry Vines.....	25,000
Wine, gallons manufactures.....	500

Peach Brandy, gallons manufactured.....	200
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Thus you will see that our farmers have a partial eye to the luxuries as well as the comforts of life, and, whenever the titles to land are settled, you see at once the evidence of thrift and comfort-those indicative precursors of a happy home.

#### MINERAL LANDS.

As I have already denominated this an agricultural county, therefore little will be expected under this head, but I will digress a very little. Gold has been found in the southwestern part of the county. Flattering prospects of quicksilver have also been discovered, and bids fair to become an item of interest.

#### TIMBER.

The timber of Yolo consists chiefly of the scrub oak and cottonwood, growing upon the margins of streams, and upon the hills a rough pine is found in limited quantities, all of which is useful only for fuel. Much incontinence is experienced by our farmers in the unequal distribution of timber, as one man's land is cumbered too much, while another has none.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

Our churches, school houses and dwellings are fast assuming the appearance of stability and comfort. Substantial plank fences follow quickly in the footsteps of a substantial title to the land.

#### RAILROAD.

The Marysville and Benicia Railroad is located and graded through the centre of the county, running through the towns of Knight's Landing and Yolo City. Length of road, fifteen miles; graded at a cost of one thousand dollars per mile.

#### CACHEVILLE AGRICULTURAL DITCH.

This ditch, twenty feet wide by six deep, was constructed about two years since, by Messrs. Hund, Hutton, Hoppin, Lowe, Yerby, and others, at a cost of about three thousand dollars per mile. The water is taken out of Cache Creek, five miles above the town of Cacheville, running directly through the town, and thence by branch ditches, to the various farms in the surrounding vicinity. From the favorable location of the lands, several thousand acres can be irrigated by it. It is an institution, certainly, deserving the notice of agricultural patrons, as by its means, trees, vines, grains, grasses, and vegetables of every kind, besides the many flowers that ornament the dwellings round about, are made to flourish in profuse luxuriance. This ditch also presents an admirable



site for a flouring mill, or a wollen factory, as the surplus discharge of water is adequate to the propelling of any desired force.

#### GRIST MILLS.

Of this class of improvements, we have three; the first, the Eagle Mills, situated in the town of Knight's Landing, is a first class institution, taking a premium at the State Fair in eighteen hundred and sixty. It was built and is owned by Z. Gardner. Of the other two, one is owned by William Platt, and situated on Putah creek; the other, owned by J.S. Cook, and situated near Yolo City, both built at a cost of about five thousand dollars, each; propelled by steam power, and doing a profitable business.

#### SAW MILLS.

We have one, situated in the town of Washington, erected about one year since, by the Messrs. Hunt, at a cost of about six thousand dollars. This mill procures its lumber by rafting down the Sacramento River.

#### LIVE STOCK.

The progress in this industrial pursuit is gratifying to every one who has either pride or interest in this branch of husbandry. The best blood horses, cattle and sheep, are being imported at marvelous rates, and already their issue are seen to grace almost every farm. The Spanish cow and horse are being superseded by the best breeds of Europe and the Atlantic States. Judging from the interest now taken in this interesting and profitable pursuit, we may readily presume that the quality of our stock will soon compare favorably with the best in the older States.

We have as follows.

Description.	Number.
Horses.....	4,641
Mules.....	457
Asses.....	10
Cattle.....	21,779
Sheep.....	34,087
Hogs.....	17,000
Chickens.....	35,000
Turkeys.....	3,500
Ducks.....	500
Geese.....	220
Wool, lbs.....	17,000

## BUTTER AND EGGS.

This is an item of no little importance to many farmers in our county. It is quite a prominent currency upon the cash books of our country stores, and many a landlady may be seen financiering over her dozens of eggs and yards of calico. Instances are not unfrequent among our farmers where they support themselves entirely from the receipts from butter and eggs.

## BEES.

We have in this county about one thousand stands of bees, which are in a thriving condition, doing well even in the driest parts of the county.

The assessed valuation of property in the county, you will find to be two hundred and sixty-three thousand four hundred and forty-four dollars less than last year. This is owing to the depreciation in cattle, sheep, and hogs, which is shown by the following table:

### RECAPITULATION.

Description.	Value in 1860.	Value in 1861.
Hogs.....	\$54,994.00	\$42,500.00
Sheep.....	114,055.00	68,174.00
Cattle.....	419,526.00	217,790.00
Totals.....	588,575.00	\$328,464.00

Difference of totals, two hundred and sixty thousand one hundred and eleven.

Description.	Amounts.
Assessed Value of Land.....	\$510,286.00
Assessed Value of Improvements.....	371,050.00
Assessed Value of Personal Property.....	1,275,146.00
Total.....	\$2,156,482.00

# TAXES.

State Tax on each \$100.....	\$0 62
Tax for County General Fund on each \$100.....	0 45
Interest Tax, 1855, on each \$100.....	0 10
School Tax on each \$100.....	0 15
Hospital Tax on each \$100.....	0 05
Road Tax on each \$100.....	0 05
Total Tax on each \$100.....	\$1 42

In conclusion, I would urge the more definite location of the line between this county and the new County of Lake, as there is much difficulty experienced by the officers in ascertaining the true limits of their respective counties, and a number of the settlers have had their property assessed in both counties this year.

Enclosed please find my statistical table, which, if not literally correct, I hope is near enough for all practical purposes, and trusting, at least that it will meet your approbation,

I subscribe myself, yours respectfully,

JAMES McCAULEY,  
Assessor of Yolo County.